magnet. For a permanent magnet NI should be replaced by Hh_M where H is the equivalent magnetic field intensity and h_M is the length of the permanent magnet.--

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 14 to read as follows:

--The magnetic flux exciter-sensor system according to the present invention requires the test sample, an elevator rope having internal steel cords, for example, to be passed over the poles of a magnet so that at any instant the portions of the cords that are over and in between the poles are magnetized, becoming part of the magnetic circuit, and a magnetic flux density is established in the cords parallel to their axes. In an ideal, non-deteriorated rope the majority of magnetic flux is parallel to the rope. A deterioration defect, as described above, in a steel cord or wire thereof causes local fringing in the magnetic flux density, so that it forms a "bump" or discontinuity in the parallel direction of the flux. At the location of the defect there is some magnetic flux density directed in a direction normal to the axis of the cord. This normal flux density is what is detected as indicative of a defect in the rope by the system of the present invention.--

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 2, 4-6, 10, 11 and 32 to read as follows, where the text amendments are reflected on the attached Claim Sheet:

1) (Twice Amended) A method of detecting degradation of a rope comprising a body of non-ferromagnetic insulator material in which a plurality of longitudinally extended ferromagnetic cord members is distributed transversely, the method comprising

creating a partial magnetic circuit in a portion of the cord members by positioning a pair of magnetic poles adjacent to the body of the rope, wherein the poles are spaced longitudinally relative to the rope, so that the partial magnetic circuit runs from one of the magnetic poles longitudinally through the portion of the cord members to the other of the magnetic poles;